

77-1723/4

5 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : General Counsel  
Deputy Director for Support  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Proposed Declassification and Release  
Of Explosive Residue Detection Techniques

1. This memorandum proposes action to declassify and disseminate the Explosives Residue Detection Technique to law enforcement officials and contains a recommendation in this regard for your approval in paragraph seven.

2. Since the declassification and dissemination through the facilities of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the Trace Metal Detection Technique, we have received impressive feed-back of the value of that technique in enhancing scientific crime detection procedures. Several police organizations have expressed deep interest in any technique similar to the Trace Metal Detection Technique which would be of value in scientific crime detection involving cases in which explosives were handled.

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addition, the technique has been demonstrated before an expanded meeting of the Security Committee of the United States Intelligence Board, again with our expression of restrictions on use because of the classified nature of the techniques.

4. I believe that the declassification and dissemination of the two explosive residue techniques, one of which detects minute traces of RDX and TNT based explosives and the other which detects Nitroglycerine and related Nitrate Esters, such as found in dynamite, would be a significant Agency contribution to the national priority defined in the Omnibus Crime Control and 25X1C Safe Streets Acts of 1968.

6. There is no question that declassification and release of this technique to both federal and public law enforcement officials in this country will further cement our very close relationships with those officials who know the true Agency origin of the techniques. In addition, the release of these techniques is a very real and timely public service which will provide law enforcement officials with added capability which they sorely need in meeting the rising wave of explosives in crimes of violence throughout the nation.

7. It is, therefore, recommended that you approve the declassification of the explosive residue detection techniques and the release of the technique to the Attorney General for technology transfer to the nation's law enforcement agencies. In this connection, I have prepared for your signature a proposed memorandum to the Attorney General to provide the basis for further discussions and implementing action between operating officials of the executive agent selected by the Attorney General and this Office.

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Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

Attachment

CONCURRENCE:

25X1A

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

15 Mar. '71  
Date

25X1A

Thomas H. Karamessinos  
Deputy Director  
for Plans

8 March 71  
Date

CONCURRENCE:

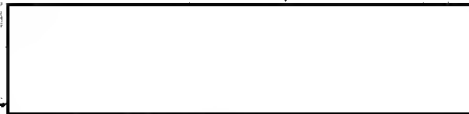
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John W. Coffey  
Deputy Director  
for Support

10 March 71  
Date

25X1A



L. K. White  
Executive Director-Comptroller

12 March 71  
Date

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ORIGINATOR:

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Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

5 MAR 87

Date

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Cfr. (Optional)

Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security  
4E-60

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

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Chief designation, room number, and  
initials

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show area where  
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

General Counsel

Deputy Director  
of Plans

Deputy Director  
of Support

Executive Director-  
Inspector

Deputy Director of  
Central Intelligence

Director of Central  
Intelligence

Deputy Director  
of Support

Director of Security  
4E-60

The Chief, Technical Services  
Division, Clandestine Services,  
concurs in this paper.

Assuming the Director's  
approval of this proposal, I would  
suggest the following action:

a. Mr. Houston and I use the  
Director's letter to the  
Attorney General as basis  
to the new Administrator  
of LEAA.

b. We provide an advanced  
simultaneous briefing of  
our police liaison contacts  
in this area and in other

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Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security